hardship in this respect, by the seizure of goods | One of the facts developed in the Impeachment which persons of "high social standing" would be

permitted to bring in free. 2. The Appraiser's Department (warehouses located on Trinity-place), under Thomas McElrath, esq., involves a cost of \$555,000 a year, all of which would be saved, beside a vast amount of revenue, if our tariff could be made like that of Russia, entirely specific, i. e., by weight and measure, instead of according to value. Ten Assistant Appraisers at \$3,000 each ; three to six examiners at \$2,500 each, and a corps of 90 openers and packers, are employed in comparing the goods imported under the ad valorem sec tions of our Tariff law, with the invoices, so as to guard against frauds by undervaluation. It is a singular fact that the Free Traders have succeeded in placing nearly all those articles which compete with our own industry on the ed valorem list, while the duties on articles we do not produce, such as Teas, West India Sugars, foreign Wines, &c., are specific, or mainly so. By this means, whatever of undervaluation there is defeats in so far the intended protective effect of our tariff. The Appraiser's Department is peculiarly liable to frauds, through the appointment in responsible positions of men through the influence, if not in the pay, of prominent importers. As it is physically impossible to open and examine all the packages, if an importer is able to influence the selection of the particular packages to be opened, window-shades, as per invoice, may be found in those opened, while silks and jewelry may be passed in those not opened. Several cases of such frauds bave transpired during the Winter. The true reform for abuses incident to the Department of Appraisal, and the only means of making our Tariff law thoroughly effective either for protection or revenue, is to abolish ad valorem tariffs altogether. This will add 20 per cent, to our revenue on the same importations, and will save one-fourth of the entire cost of the Customs Department in New-York. But of course the 254 persons for whom the Appraiser's Department provides stand ready to prove that this should not be done. The approach of an election is said to have an expansive effect upon the Appraiser's Department, which is quite a phenomenon in its way. For instance, in 1866 up to July, the cost of labor and salaries was only \$29,000 a month. In October and November, it was \$40,000. Yet the number of invoices appraised in the first period was 12,000, and in the second only from 8,000 to 10,000.

3. The immediate functions of the Collector of the Port, like the tribes of Israel, have 12 divisions. They are presided over by an auditor, a cashier, and 10 deputy collectors. Four of these divisions, the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, occupy the Rotunda of the Custom-House, and keep up that inexplicable rustle and whirl of papers in supplying the demands of that maze of applicants which make this seem like the central and busiest hive of all the thronging industries of our great city.

The Fourth Division under Dr. G. W. Embree, the Arst deputy on the right as you enter the Rotunda. has charge of the entrance and clearance, registering, enrolling, and licensing, of vessels. This is an honest branch of the business; and Dr. Embree who has been in the service a number of years, is a very genial and respectable gentleman. Hence, you need not take alarm, nor button up your pockets, if perchance you should see a pile of religious tracts lying on his desk, as he comes by them legitimately.

The next Division on the right (Fifth), under charge of Deputy J. R. Lydecker, enters goods, fixes rates of duty, or grants free permits and takes bonds. His clerks occupy the center of the Rotunda, and chief among them we notice the intellectual and genial countenance of C. F. Briggs, esq., who still whiles away his leisure hours with occa. sional articles for the Magazines, more rare than they ought to be, or in "doing" the financial for The Independent. Our Customs officers, by way of saving the reputation of the Department, and imparting a savor of gentility to the Customs service, find it necessary to secure the services of some men of repute in the literary world. Beside Mr. Briggs in the Rotunda, we have in the Auditor's Office (second floor on William-st.) R. B. Coffin, esq., or "Barry Gray," whose "Matrimonial Infelicities," and other humorous works, are worth reading. He is also as sociate editor of The Home Journal, Away up under

the caves"Where the brooding swantows ening," is Richard Grant White, Shakespearian critic and serine, in his official capacity, has charge of the revenue cutters, a very agreeable relaxation from the labors of writing for The Galaxy. T. C. Leland. a literary Radical, is Appointment Clerk, a sort of Secretary to the Collector, and J. W. Ward, in the Auditor's office, is Socretary to the Microscopical

Passing from the Rotunda up the stauway, toward the Exchange-place and Hanover-st. corner, we enter the rooms of the Third Deputy, J. H. Steadwell, who has charge of the warehoused and bonded goods, and of the storekeepers for the public and private bonded stores. Mr. Steadwell's department is mainly the result of the "warehouse system," which has been shown to be of such doubtful expediency, and the abolition of which is urged in many quarters with great force. The emissaries of British free trade succeeded, we believe, while Guthrie was Secretary of the Treasury. in persuading our Government that, if goods could be received, stored in bond, and reexported without paying duties, the port of New-York would become a vast depot for the interchange of the commerce of other ports, and the carrying trade would pass much more largely into the control of American vessels. The plan has totally failed to accomplish its pretended objects. The amount of foreign merchandise re-exported is absolutely insignificant; and, as our carrying trade has passed by the war to English vessels, they alone derive this source of benefit from our warehouse system. The privilege is a source of fraud. An importer has only to procure the certificate of a foreign consignee, consul, and the mate of a vessel, that goods have been reexported, to be released from his bond for payment of the duties. In some cases in which such certificates are procured, the goods have been re-exported, and in some they have been consumed in this country. But the facility it affords for smuggling in this and other modes is the least evil of the warehouse system. The storage of the goods is a source of great profit, and becomes, therefore, part of the "patronage" of the Deputy Collector. He assigns the goods at discretion to such warehouses as he may select; and this privilege of selection is worth several

thousand dollars per month to the warehouses. The Warehouse system enables foreign manufacturers to consign their wares to an agent in New-York, instead of selling them to an importer; and, as the Government loans the foreign manufacturer the amount of the duties until he has effected a sale, the foreign manufacturer has a double advantage . 1st over the American importer, by saving rent of store. elerk-hire, and importers' profits; and, 2d, over the American manufacturer by the fact that he escapes 20 per cent, of the tariff by undervaluations, all Internal Revenue taxes, all outlay of capital in America, and borrows the amount of the duties of the Government, without interest, until he has effected a sale. The legitimate importer finds it hard to contend with the broad of irresponsible agents of foreign manufacturers, which this Warehouse system engenders. He cannot get his goods so low through the Custom-House, nor compete in other respects with one who has no character, and needs no capital.

There are four classes of warehouses, viz.: Class one are stores owned and leased by the United States, which now include only the Appraisers' or "Public Store," and the single store for the storage and sale of unclaimed goods. Class two are the stores occupied by a single importer for the storage of his own goods, under bond, with the privilege of manufacturing them for reexport without paying duty. There are some half-a-dozen of these. The amount reexported from them is less than a million annually, and the frauds connected with them probably equal that amount. They should be wholly abolished, of course, as they invite frauds too obviously to be defended for a moment. Class three are the common bonded warehouses, about eighty in number, some of which fill vast blocks, and form an important architectural feature of the river sections of New-York and Brooklyn. Ten of them are designated by Queensboro, Duress Co., Ky., Feb. 4, 1802

free of duty. Some of our immigrants suffer great | the Collector for the storage of General Order goods investigation, it will be remembered, was the conflicting disposition made of the "General Order" business by President Johnson and Collector Smythe. President Johnson was sworn to have promised it to Mrs. Perry, who sold it for a handsome sum to a firm in New-York. Mr. Smythe had made another disposition of it; and the affair was ultimately ompromised to the satisfaction of all parties except the public. The "General Order" business means that where, in the haste of discharging vessels, consignees are unable to designate where their goods shall be sent, the Collector orders them to some general receiving warehouse, selected by himself, to await dis tribution. As the warehouses charge by law a full month's storage, though the goods may remain only a day, and as their rates are higher than elsewhere the "General Order" business has a money value amply sufficient to account for Mrs. Perry's interest in it. The abolition of the Warehouse system would probably save to the Government Half a Million of dollars a year. Deputy J. H. Steadwell, who has one of the most important positions in the Custom-House, and enjoys largely the confidence of the Collector, is a shrewd and clever ex-country lawyer and journalist.

The Eighth Division, under Deputy S. T. Blatchford, has charge of drawbacks or repayments of Internal Revenue taxes and duties collected on exported goods.

The Ninth Division, Deputy E. C. Banfield (a clever Boston lawyer, appointed on the recommendation of Gov. Boutwell), has office charge of suits against the Collector, and of bonds for payment of duties, and prosecutions thereon.

The Tenth Division, under Deputy R. G. Moulton, is the Seizure Bureau, having charge of the inquisitorial appliances whereby timid importers or offending smugglers are made to disgorge.

Eleventh, John A. Cooke, Deputy, has charge of the Public Store and of the goods under appraisal by the Appraiser.

The Twelfth Division, called the Panama Transit, now filled by L. B. Grigsby of Kentucky, is a new and unnecessary division for the supervision of shipments via the Isthmus. It is really created to provide a place-a hole bored to fit the peg.

The First and Second Divisions (S. G. Ogden, Auditor, and Mr. Robinson, Cashier,) are in a degree supervisory of the others. In these twelve Divisions, 347 persons are employed, at a cost of half a million of dollars. There are three clerkships worth \$3,000, fourteen at \$2,500, and twenty-five each at \$2,800, \$1,800, \$1,600, \$1,500, fifty at \$1,400, and sixty at \$1,200.

The Naval Office, now vacant and in charge C. S. Franklin, Special Deputy, employs three deputies and sixty clerks, and is designed as a check upon the Collector's Office. But, as the Naval Officer has the same interests in all respects as the Collector, it is no check whatever, except as the winding of a larger amount of red tape requires longer to unwind. If the duties of Auditor under the Collector are properly performed, there is no occasion for a Naval Officer, and the abolition of the office, whose enermous income fully equals that of the Collector, would save the Government at least \$75,000 a year.

Every employé subscribes each month to an oath to the effect that he has not received any money himself, nor through any member of his family, nor any money, neither purchased any goods at less than retail prices from any importer for services rendered. Notwithstanding this iron-clad obligation, it is noorious as heretofore, that entry clerks make out and

collect fees at so much per entry upon work done by them, (professedly after business hours,) and Inspectors accept and demand fees and perquisites from the steamship or other companies whose vessels they

In fact, current rates of compensation have been established, and each Inspector, upon superintending the discharge of a cargo, receives his \$10, \$15 or \$20, with an extra allowance of say \$50 per night, for any night-service rendered necessary by the haste in discharging or coaling. They also are allowed to walk off with from two to six bottles of wine and brandy each per day. Steamers that are in port 12 days are compelled to furnish the two Inspectors in charge from four to twelve dozen bottles of foreign spirits per trip.

Is it surprising that large circles of friends receive their regular supplies from that member who claims "be Customs service ? The reforms most needed in the Customs Service

are raf : The substitution of specific for ad valorem duties thus saving in revenue 20 per cent. on the duties now col

lected ad valorem, or ray..... This would also save the entire expense of the Appraiser's imate importers against amagglers, and American manuturers against] foreign, at an annual saving to Govern-

Saving in salaries, labor, and interest on deferred payment 

distributive shares payable in seizure cases......

Round estimate of the economy of these measures per annum. \$17,020,000 If Congress will pass the laws necessary to inaugurate these reforms, and President Grant will appoint the man best calculated to enforce them, the reputation of the Custom-House can be redeemed from the odium which has rested upon it, and the administration of the new President will have won its first and greatest battle. We need for this purpose a man of large experience in Executive business, free from complications with New-York merchants or business men, with a soul above money, or at least a sagneity which will enable him to perceive that his personal gain by an able adminstration and reform of the New-York Custom-House will be far greater than the temporary profit and pleasure of allowing himself to be woodd into the seductive and downward path to ill-gotten wealth. He must be a discreet and skeptical judge of men, a rigid disciplinarian, perfectly independent of politiciaus and merchants in his appointments and removals, and must maintain a rigid detective system throughout every department. Next to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Collector of the Port of New-York is the most important Financial officer of the Government.

## LETTER FROM A FREEDMAN.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: You will perhaps be astonished by receiving this from a colored man. I have been a slave, and all I know I have learned since I have been a free man. I know that you have been the ever true friend of the colored man; I know that you were his friend when he was bound in the shackles of Slavery, and when there was no chance of making him a machine to draw money from the Treasury of the United States. You must excuse me for the expression that the colored man has lately found friends in strange places. He has found men who but five short years ago, could tie him up to a post and give him a hundred lashes, cut his back until the blood streamed from it, and think nothing of it, but who are now the professed friends of the colored race. Who can blame the colored man if he looks upon the carpet-bagger blame the colored man if he looks upon the carpet-bagger with more favor than the man whose handshave scarcely grown cold from the use of the whip on our backs. We have had another hanging affair. There is an old tree in the Court-House yard that has been the means of sending two souls to eternity. Two colored men have been hanged on that tree at different periods for the same alleged cause, namely rape; hanged by a mob, and hanged innocently, as sure as there is a Heaven. One was hanged on last Wodneaday; the other two years ago. Are we to have no guarantee against being taken from our humble homes and swung up to gratify the clamoring of a mob, whose aim is now to "be down on the nigger, rob him, hang him, and persecute him in all manner of ways." Let us here say, the true Rebel soldier, with very few exceptions, treats us well. We must have more protection. We cannot appear as witnesses before the State Courts. If a man was to come to my house, murder my wife and daughter, and knock the brains out of my little babe, I could not appear as gainst him, though the deed was committed under my very nose. The Bureau being removed, leaves us in a manner without any redress whatever. We respectfully call the attention of Congress to these facts, and ask them to give some shape of protection. We have all been soldiers, and many of us now sleep under the sod for that very fact.

I can give you the names of 2s colored men who have been murdered in Duress County in the last four years, and in only one instance have the parties who committed the murder been brought to justice. That case was when Wm. Bell shot a colored man for fun, and was arrested by the Bureau officer on duty here, and held in the military prison at Louisville, Ky. The schools of this county are all flourishing, thanks to the Bureau for the interest they have taken in the education of the colored children. Colored colored children. with more favor than the man whose hands have scarcely

## THE DRAMA.

THE THIEVES AT NIBLO'S.

The ancient Egyptians, who were pretty well

advanced in the victous luxury of civilization, have left in their architecture certain highly instructive and impressive symbols of what they worshiped. Messrs. Jarrett & Palmer, with an eye to the perpetuity of their glorious fame, would do well to imitate the example of the ancient Egyptians. Inspired by this suggestion-which we make with fitting respect for illustrious names-they might erect a theater, in every part of which, cut in symmetrical effigy and clothed in nothing but its natural loveliness, should appear the emblem of their successthe Female Leg. It would be a noble pile. It would require no sanctifying lapse of years to make it reverend. It would command the passionate admiration of the age of its makers, and a far-distant posterity would gaze upon it with rapture, conscious of the mighty minds that knew the spirit of their time, and did their best to raise it. Or, if Mesers. Jarrett & Palmer do not act upon this hint-and everybody knows that true greatness is ever characterized by a noble simplicity, and a modest shrinking from the assumption of public honors-it would be but just for their admiring votaries, in their own generation, to build such a theater for them. Let Casar have his own! To the victor be the spoils! Those who deserve well of their age should be rewarded betimes. To know that one is destined to monumental marble is, of course, a kind of comfort; but actually to behold the memorial pile, while yet the struggling spirit is imprisoned in the flesh, must be genuine and unalloyed happiness. As we fancy Messrs. Jarrett and Palmer, serenely gazing upon this theater of the future, and placedly aware of the apering limb that has led them on to fortune, we seem to hear their manly voices, a little tremulous with natural pride, mingled sweetly in one resigned invocation to the genius of calf-" Now let thy servants depart in peace!" It is a consummation devoutly to be wished. They have done their work, and it is high time that they had their wages. They have given us "The Black Crook," ."The White Fawn," the corruscating and all-conquering splendors of Tammany-that irresistible midnight nest for wandering owls-and, last of all, the undraped pageant of "The Forty Thieves." It is the sight of this latter spectacle that has fixed our thoughts anew upon these emineut men, and fired us to clamor for some substan tial memorial to their greatness. That the spectacle is affecting, therefore, the reader will at once infer. "Forty flags with their crimson stars" make a luminous effect in the imagery of Mr. Whittier's familiar bailed; but these are as nothing to forty girls with their salmon-colored legs. Let it not be inferred, however, that this sunburst was let loose all at once. On the contrary, it came upon us by degrees. Before the curtain rose there was a premonition of it, in certain tumultuous sounds-as of a hundred yearning bassoons in the agony of death, or an insane steam engine uttering hoots of rage-that proceeded from Mr. Commits o orchestra. Then came a shady grove; then a moment of suspense; then the decorated caives of what appeared to be a Hebrew damsel with " nothing to wear," but was understood to be, in fact, a Fairy Queen. Thereafter the beauties thickened in natural sequence. In the second scene appeared ajachass (a very clever one) and eighty calves—the latter appropriately led by Miss Edith Challis. Nine times, on the spacious stage of Niblo's, the scene was changed. Nine times the spirit of Vincent rode on the whiriwind and directed the supers. But no scene was destitute of that great central object, which is the pillar of the modern drama's state. Like Ariel, it flamed in many places. Chiefly, of course, it took the form of the Thieves. But it also assumed the beauteous semblance of Lydia Thompson, who was bewitching as Ganem, a trim little rowdy in white satin. It was seen again in Miss Lisa Weber, who was Morgiana, and whose general conduct was strongly suggestive of a rampageous washerwoman. And, finally, it seemed to pervade, and wholly to constitute, Miss Lizzle Kelsey as Amber, Miss Emma Grattan as Orchobrand, and certain nameless and shameless females who darted out, as con-can dancers, in the last act. To its general merits we need not speak, nor is there present occasion for the much vexed question whether it be real or stuffed. Enough is said in saying that it was abundantly there. Let us not omit to note, though, that it was duly embellished. In the garnishing of their one great idea, Messrs. Jarrett & Palmer have displayed a iberality worthy of the matter, and characteristic of themselves. Divers new flats have been introduced. The fertile genius of Mr. Farnic has once more been brought into requisition-of Mr. H. B. Farnic, the foremost drama tic humorist of the nineteenth century, on whom the mantle of Boucleault has fallen, and in whose melodious lines the rich sentiment of Steele and the trenchant wit of Jerrold breathe once more. Mr. Fareis who supplied the text of the burlesque. Very little of it was heard-but that does n't much matter. There is a bran new joke in it; "tis grease, but living grease no more." There are other things in it equally od. Mr. Farnie resembles Byron, in the carcless prod: gality with which he scatters his mental wealth. Witness the court room scene, who can the ludge is beneal. Nothing short of stupendous intellect and an absolutely have devised this stinging commen on the judiciary of the land in which the gifted Mr. Farnie is an honored guest. On the details of the bur-lesque we shall not dwell. The author has condescended to follow the current of the Arabian Nights' story, introducing here and there bits of comic business. The jackass, to whom allusion has already been made, was one of these, and he is a conspicuous type of the richness of this author's invention. The "real train" that defies injunetions, and crosses the stage infa dusty racket, is another. Better than either is the sleepy constable. He got a good many knocks and a good deal of applause. So did a lot of vocal nonsense at the end of the third scene, when four performers came forward, in succession, and sung trash, to a simple ditty. This fine display of wit was six times repeated, at the cail of a vast multitude of intelligent New-Yorkers. Mr. Beckett was in the scene, and whatever he does he does " excellent well." He played Hasserac, and the arrest of him, in the seventh scene, was a gem of comicality. Here again there was vocalism. Indeed, throughout the performance, the voice of the heavenly maid was frequently exercised. Miss Thompson, we remember, essayed the "Genevieve" melody, En passant sous la fénetre, which we fancy she would do very well, with the assistance of a step-ladder to the higher notes. Last of all came a scene in La Jur din Mubille. The famous dance was performed. They did it in action, as they do it before the Duke. It was a scene from Paris. We cannot describe it. An unsophis ticated observer might say that it was bawdy and foul. But the unsophisticated are sometimes too ingenuously

THE SECOND VOLUME OF HUMPTY DUMPTY. The "Second Volume" of "Humpty Dumpwas opened at the Olympic Theater on the 1st of Feb ruary. In other words, the pantomime which has made Mr. G. L. Fox both wealthy and wise was then presented in a form almost entirely new. That the new volume is bound to please" was wittily asserted by the play-bill, and is fully proved by the support of the public. It is as gay a volume as the merriest minded reader of jest-books could wish to see. In saying this we point to the cause of its popularity. Of substance, so far as thought, fancy, wit, or dramatic invention are concerned, it has none. "The spider's most attenuated web," as remarked by the author of the "Night Thoughts," "is cord, is cable" to the net-work of honsense that Mr. Fox has woven around the name of "Humpty Dumpty." And yet, so absurd is this net, woven of such many-colored and sparkling threads, that to look upon it is to forget care, and to watch its unfolding is to drift into a mare of mirth. A description of it, in detail, would be very much like an account of the shifting shapes and colors of the kaleidoscope. Observations somewhat at random, therefore, are all that we can offer. History has recorded the disaster which happened to Humpty Dumpty-how that hero fell from a wall, and how such results were experienced by him that neither the King's oven nor the King's men could ever replace him upon his proud eminence. Upon this mournful legend Mr. Fox has based his pantomime-pursuing, however, the philosophical policy recommended by Balthagar, and "converting all its sounds of woe into hey nony, nony." What he gives us to see is, in fact, a picture of the course of true love, perplexed by the antics and machinations of a clever devil-an imp of mischief, Humply Dumply to wit, who is admirably personated by himself. As this was the subject of volume first, so is it also the subject of volume second. The difference is that in the new volume the current of the loves of Harlequin and Columbine is to some extent made to run in new channels, and met by new obstacles of muschief from the fortile brain and couning hand of their comic foe. On the very threshold of the performance we encounter novelty in the shape of a revised "Preface." The scene is "Vulcan's Court of the Quarter Sessions," wherein all the chief characters of the pantomime assemble, and arrangements are made for the conduct of the plot. There is some rhymed talk in this part of the piece, understood to have been furnished by Oakey Hall, who entertains a score or two of muses as handmaidens to the goddess of law. This being over, the action of the pantomime ensues. Seventeen scenes are set for the story. Through

frank. Let us rather say that it showed, in re-

splendent effulgence, the noble, intellectual, manly spirit

influential theaters in the land, Messrs, Jarrett and

Palmer fulfill their duty to the drama and the public.

Verily they deserve their reward. "The Forty Thieves"

is now in its third week at Niblo's Garden.

bine, pursued by Humpty Dumpty Fox and his fraternal on. Certain of the scenes are of an ornamental character-glimpses, as it were, of fairy land; and in these Miss Sangaili, Mr. Costa, and a crowd of agile sylphs disport upon the bounding toe. One of the dances is particularly neat. It is called a Scandinavian Polka, and is accompanied by straw music made by the girls themselves, who beat with little hammers upon certain melodious instruments of sound. It is not the ballet, though, that gives this piece its charm, albeit a judicious admixture of this element hightens the piquancy of the mirth wherewith it contrasts. That mirth is the great matter. Mechanical devices contribute a portion of it. In one scene, for example, a number of living women are suddealy converted into chairs and tables. In another, a wandering key-hole makes its appearance in every part of its appertaining door. These are sufficient types of the mechanical part of the trickery. There is no end to the devices of this sort which scute invention can supply, and Mr. Fox has employed both memory and invention in this part of his work. But the chief part of the mirth of "Humpty Dumpty," the animating spirit that makes it what it is, is supplied by the actor himself. He elevates the Clown into an artist. He gives us true pantomime, which is the basis of all acting. The thoughts and feelings which he undertakes to interpret are superficial, and are confined within a narrow scope. Such re striction is inevitable in a work of this kind. But they are perfectly expressed by the actor. Nothing could be more significant and effectual than is the perfect concurrence of his facial expression and his sudden movement or sudden stillness of body, when some new conception and purpose of mischief flashes into his brain, ugh he has done the same thing a thousand times, he does it every time as if it were entirely new. One of his happlest expressions is that of bland and serene unconsciousness, whenever he has committed an outrage of more than common gravity. His face of virtue is simply irresistible. So is his face of discomfiture, when, in the midst of some unholy glee over the distress he has wrought, he comes suddenly to grief. Astonishment, indignation, and the sense of being found out, are beautifully blended in it, with the latent purpose to get away into safety and to do so again. It is no wonder that the children are delighted with this performer. He is earnest in his pranks; he enjoys them, and so he makes them enjoyable to others. The worker must take a natural and sincere pleasure in his work, or no effect that the use of, or traffic in, intoxicating liquors as one else will. Mr. Fox has this capacity. It is his nature to be sportive; that nature he discloses in full play; and the result is a genuine success. To speak of "Humpty Dumpty" as an intellectual matter would be absurd. It is an affair of fun-simple almost to triviality; but, of its kind, genuine and excellent. No such partouime can be seen anywhere else in America, and, in his peculiar domain, Mr. Fox has no rival on the American stage. At the sanglusion of the new volume of "Humpty Dumpty."

dyes." Silver, goid, coral, shapes of beauty, and floods of light, combine hereks, and make a momentary splendor that bathles the eyes in pleasure. It is a fit ending to a volume of sparkling density. BROUGHAM'S THEATER. An entire change of performance will be made next Monday evening at Brougham's Theater. An 'Irish Stew" and "The Dramatic Review" will be taken off, and " A Gentleman from Ireland " and " Pocahontas' will be substituted. Mr. Brougham will appear in both plays. Preparations are being made with all possible dispatch for the Shakespearean Revival-which is to be illustrated by an entirely new and unique travestie of 'The Merchant of Venice." Mr. Brougham will enact Shylock. It will be seen that there is a good deal of innocent pleasure in store for the habitues of this elegant theater-the most elegant and the cosiest one, be it said, that can be found in America. Let it also be said that Mr. Brougham deserves the respect and applause, as well as the practical support, of the respectable portion of this community, for conducting his theater in the spirit naturally characteristic of a gentleman, who esteems himself, his profession, and the mobile.

we should add, there comes a grand pictorial scene

which, like Keats's window, is "innumerable of splendid

BOOTH'S THEATER. A Matinée of "Romeo and Juliet" will be given here to-day, the first of the season, and should the day be fine there will doubtless be present a large audience of beauty and fashion. Matinees have grown very popular in New-York, of late seasons. In the even ing Mr. Edwin Adams makes his special appeal to the public, appearing, for the first time in New York, as Narcisse, in "Narcisse, the Vagrant," translated and adapted from the German by Mr. James Schonberg.

MATINEES TO-DAY.

In addition to the Booth Matinée, Matinées ill be given at the Academy of Music ("L' Africaine") the French Theater ("Genevieve de Brabant"), Wood's Museum (two burlesques), the Olympic ("Humpty Dumpty"), the Circus (divers acrebatic feats), the Waverley Theater (the Holt Troupe, in "Fra Diavolo"), Niblo's Garden ("The Forty Thieves"), the Broadway Theater (Mile. Zoe, as Nim), the New-York Theater ("London Assirance"), the Grand Opera Worse ("Ornhee Condon Assirance"), and the Taminanty.

MR. BOUCICAULT ON ORIGINALITY,

Sir: An anonymous correspondent, writing to a morning paper, has stated that Mr. Robertson's new comedy, "school," is not "original." It is time that this ridiculous cant about "originality, should be exploded. There is no such thing as originality, as the word is now used. When an author conceives a work, be it great or small, there is always a father to it. In some works the features of that father are apparent, in others the production takes after the mother, that is, the author; but although we fail to trace the male parent, he is there. A play is composed of three essentials: the fable or plot, the manners or characters, the dialogus. Now, without reading the German drama from which Mr. Robertson has been accused of taking his comedy, a spectator must perceive internal and clear evidence that the dialogue of "School" is neither translated nor borrowed. Its ingenity and exquisite point forbid even the proposition; it is simply impossible. The characters are essentially English, both in outline and in color, excepting one subordinate role. I mean the tutor Crux. This offensive personage may be borrowed; if so, the sooner it is returned the better. Now for the piot; there is none; and that is all that can have been taken from the Gorman. The feeble thread on which the dramatist has strung his jewels is not a plot. The incidents do not serve to develop the characters; they are only slight excess for their presence. The spectators do not await is SIR: An anonymous correspondent, writing to has strung his jewels is not a plot. The incidents do not serve to develop the characters; they are only slight excuses for their presence. The spectators do not await in suspense what the persons will do, they only desire to hear what next they will say. There is no action involving the characters in what we call a complication, and there is no denouement arriving at a catastrophe. What plot there is belongs to the fairy tale "Cinderella." It seems that some German author conceived the idea of applying this story to modern domestic life. Mr. Robertson adopt the same notion and builds a comedy upon it, a comedy as original as any in the English or any other language.

anguage. This cant about "originality" is a new cry. It would This cant about "originality" is a new cry. It would have opened Sinkespear's cyes to hear himself accused of being a mere literary thief. Wycherly, who borrowed material from Molière, would have smiled at modern literary legislation. Vambrugh did worse than Shakespeare. He took a play of Cibber's, and, adopting all the principal characters therein, he wrote a continuation. And Sheridan took Vanbrugh's continuation and remodeled it under the title of "A Trip to Scarboro."

Again, I would point out that the rules of "legitimate" trans forbid originality in the modern sense of the word; forbid it absolutely and with high authority. Horace warns the dramatist against original plots, and bids him beware of trying to introduce original characters. He

warms the dramatist against original plots, and but him beware of trying to introduce original characters. He irgas the poet to take old subjects and well-worn heroes, and not to wander from a beaten track in search of novelty. He points to the Greek tragic poets who took fables and subjects from each other. Novelty belongs, properly, to the illegitimate drama, and as that is my province, I hope Mr. Robertson's admirers will keep him off my demessie.

province, I hope Mr. Robertson's admirers will keep him off my demessie.

Once, many years ago, I wrote legitimate comedies. I allude to the period when Mr. Macready collected his celebrated company of tragedians, including Warde, Phelps, Anderson, Vandenhoff, Elton, G. Bennett, Macready, Miss Heien Faucit, Mrs. Warner- when Mdme. Vestris opposed him, in comedy, with Farren, Bartley, Harley, C. Matthews, Keeley, Meadows, Cooper, Mrs. Nisbett, Vestris, Mr. Olger, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Humby. These were the palmy days of the drama, when Knowles, Bulwer, Leigh Hunt, Douglas Jerrold, Gerald Gifflin, and others wrote—when Stanfield, Roberts, Marshall, the Grieves, and Telbin painted. Then indeed great works, greatly acted, and splendidly produced were served up to the critical world of London; then indeed, Drury Laneshowed its empty benches and Covent Garden went to to the critical world of London; then, indeed, Drury Lane showed its empty benches and Covent Garden went to the walf. These were the painy days. These were the Bhakespearean times. The manager of Covent Garden became bankrupt, and Mr. Maeready escaped with very sore pockets. Let us unmask the truth. The dilettantiare more fond of praising the legitimate drama than of paying to see it. It is an easy method of passing off for a superior kind of person to wave one's hand and declare. "There is nothing worth seeing at the theaters now." One might reply, "Did you go there when there was something worth seeing t" These fops, these hearthrug critics, are created by the newspaper cant I deprecate. I have seen a good deal of rabbish in the shape of drama; I have contributed not a little to it myself; but of all the rubbish which incumbers the stage, that furnished by the press is the most mischievous because it is well-written nonsense. I sometimes am tempted to wish that those palmy old days were ours again; when the morning the press is the most mischievous because it is well-win-ten nonsense. I sometimes am tempted to wish that those palmy old days were ours again; when the morning paper used to send a reporter from the gallery of the house, or the gentleman who "did the public dimers," to "notice" a new play. What the man wrote was stupid, but nobody minded him. Yours, &c., Dion Boucicault.

MUSIC.

There will be a matinee performance of L'Africaine" to-day, at the Academy of Music. The opera nights next week are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. La Grange sings on Tuesday in "1/Etotle du Nord." We trust that "Belisario" will soon be repeated.

Ole Bull gives a concert to-night at Steinway Hall, for the benefit of the members of his concert troups who lost their wardrobes and other personal property by the steamboat disaster on the Ohio River. Both the Sunday concert troupes offer good programmes for to-morrow. Theodore Thomas advertises at Steinway Hall Miss Pauline Bimeler, Mr. Ignatz Pollak, Mr. Wenige, pianist, and Messrs. Schmitz and Siedler, French horn and flute, besides his orchestra. At Irving Hall Mr. Levy will play, and other attractions are offered. these career the lithe shapes of Harlequin and ColumGENERAL NOTES

One of the men employed on the Sandy Hook light-ship has not been on shore for 10 years. A new periodical has been started in Jackson, Mlss., called The Colored Citizens' Monthly.

Many citizens of Nashville, without regard to party, it is said, are preparing a grand reception for

One church in Pittsburgh has lost \$500 in broken windows by the carelessness or malice of boys

playing in the neighborhood. The Baltimore and Ouro Kattroad monopoly, says The Evening Star, adds \$300 per annum to the living expenses of Washington families whose incomes amount

to \$2,500. After the acquittal of a man in Clucinnati, recently, one of the jurymen arose and suggested that "the acquitted now be recommended to the mereiful consideration of the court."

The American Union Club of New-Orleans celebrated the recent birthday of Lincoln, Feb. 12, with public ceremonies, and resolved to celebrate the anniversary regularly hereafter. Railroad robberies of the most daring kind

become very common on the trains running to and from Chicago. One man was garroted by four ruflians on the platform between two cars. The Rev. S. Irenaus Prime denies the truth of

the paragraph now going the rounds of the papers-that Dr. McCosh, the new President of Princeton Conege, plays whist and is a wine-bibber. The region around the Falls of the Ohio at

Louisville is, geologically, one of the most interesting in the United States. Another pair of elephant tusks have been dug up at New-Albany. A burglar in St. Joseph. Mo., made a serious

nistake a few nights ago. He carefully secreted himself under a bed, and would have been entirely successful had he not fallen asleep and awakened the people by his anoring. The Vermont State Temperance Convention, held recently, unanimously adopted a resolution to the

a beverage uttterly disqualfies a man for holding office in Church or State. It is proposed in Philadelphia to bring the remains of William Penn from England to Pennsylvania, and to erect a splendid monument over them. They were buried in a leaden coffin and their transportation to

America will not be difficult. The Chicago Tribune libel case is in court again for a new trial. The Judge has warned the proprietors of that paper that if it again publishes an attack upon the jurors, as it did at the end of the first trial, they will be punished severely for contempt of court.

A Jew appears as senior wrangler this year as camprings Calversity, England, for the first time. He is a son of a French professor, Hartog of the Jews' College. The question whether he can be made a Bachelor of Arts, omitting the Christian form of oath, is yet to A Democratic member of a lecture committee

the Rev. Petroleum V. Nasby to deliver a discourse. He was quite astonished when the evening came, but had ough good nature to join the laugh and shake hands with Mr. Locke. A movement, which is said to be very much in earnest, has been started in Hornellsville and Corning to divide Steuben County into two or three countles. Efforts have been made heretofore in the Legislature

at Saratega made a ludicrous blunder recently by inviting

having in view the same object, which have failed, as this probably will. The late Chief-Justice Williams of New-Bedford, Massachussetts, retired from the bench at the age of 65 without a dollar in property, having lost his fortune by the failure of others. He also owed \$5,000. He went to work in his profession, paid his debts, and retired with a competence at the age of 76.

The Chairmen of the Republican and Democratic parties of Vermont have united in a call for a Convention of the freemen of Vermont, to be held at Montpelier on the 20th inst., to nominate a ticket of 13 persons to constitute a Counsel of Censors, to be voted for the last Wednesday in March, agreeable to the State Constitution.

The charges against Sheriff Weaves of Oneida County, for irregularities in the execution of Carswell, show that he allowed a miscellaneous crowd of persons to be present, who hooted and snow-balled each other. It is also charged that he allowed Carswell to be bled before administration dead before he was hung. The question whether the new city on the

Pacific Railroad at the point nearest to Salt Lake is to be Gentile" or "Saint" promises to in Utah. The Mormons hold the land, and have the power, apparently, in their own hands. The Railroad Company itself, however, possesses strong influence, and the Gentiles appeal to them. The famous Judge and Jury Club of London

has been suppressed. The mock trials in complete imitation of a regular Court conducted there with so much low, wit and obscenity, were invented about 20 years ago by Nicholson, a lawyer expelled from the bar for malpractice. He edited "The Town" and "Paul Pry," and ' Nicholson's Noctes," all low papers. A farmer in Griswold, Conn., has published

an account of turkeys raised and sold, with expenses and profits, from June, 1868, to Jan., 1869, as follows: Credit -98 turkeys killed, 1,426 lbs., at 27 cents per lb., \$385 02; 3 turkeys not killed, estimated at \$9; total, \$394 02. Debtor-110 bush. corn at \$1 50, \$165; cost of butchering, &c., \$10; total, \$175. Net profit, \$219 02. The Cleveland Leader tells of an old hermit

named Pray, recently murdered in Ohio, who was the victim of a coquette in New-York City many years ago. He had lived for nearly forty years in an old hut on a lonely road. His sister, a resident of this city, found him in his retreat about ten years ago, but could not induce him to leave it. He was once a very successful merchant.

Walt Whitman, says The Springfield Republican, never carried his eccentricities of appearance to greater length than at present. He wanders up and down the avenue in Washington every day. His hair, to which the old poet gives free scope, falls below his shoulders, and his head is crowned by an immense, weather-stained hat, broad-brimmed as a Quaker's, and 'skewed" all out of shape.

It is officially stated that in Arkansas, during the three months preceding the calling out of the militia. there were received at the Governor's headquarters authentic accounts of over 200 murders perpetrated with Impunity in that State, and very many of the most flendish outrages; but during the 40 days which have passed since marlial law was declared, but one single murder and not a single outrage has been heard of in the State.

The town elections in Otsego County resulted in the election of 15 Republican, and nine Democratic Supervisors; a Republican gain of two. In Broome County, 16 Republicans, and four Democrats; a Republican gain of three. In Tioga, five Republicans, and five Democrats; a Democrate gain of three. Steuben County is said to have elected 19 Republican, and 13 Democratic Supervisors; a Democratic gain of two, if the report be

The following stanzas are from a hymn sung at revival meetings in England. It was written and published by William Weaver, the noted lay preacher. The are five verses in all:

"I've given my heart to Jesus,
And mean to keep it so!
If the devil wants to have it all,
I'll tell him—'Not for Joe.'"
Chorus—"Not for Joe," etc.

day when his friend wrote it, laughing as he did so, upon an old scrap of paper upon the top of his hat. He could not go on, but apologized to the audience, and the play proceeded without the song.

The wine revenue suit in New-Orleans has elleited some curious oaths from wine-dealers more anx. lous for their pockets than their reputations. They have sworn that "La Rose," "Lafitte," and other pretty names are only names printed on bits of paper and pasted on bottles which contain mixtures of low wines of various kinds. One of them seemed to think it quite a joke that anybody should think real "La Rose" should com e to this country.

A railway library of 1,000 volumes has been established by the Boston and Albany Railroad for the use of its officers and employés. An apartment in the passenger station at Boston has been fitted up in a handsome style for the reception of the books. The library is divided into two departments, styled the Consulting and the Circulating. The first named comprises railway enactments, English and American; encyclopedias. The Circulating department embraces standard works of interest, instruction, fiction, and bound volumes of the most valuable periodicals of past years, 500 or 600 in number. Any person in the service of the company on the line between Boston and Albany is privileged to take books from this department, two at a time, and to hold them two weeks, the train baggage-masters and station agents along the route transmitting them to and from the hbrary on Tues day and Thursday of each week.

CRIME.

THE MANIAC CHILD MURDERER. The maniae Hunter, of Hannibal, Missouri,

who murdered his little daughter a few days ago, and cut out her heart, has made the following remarkable "confession." The poor maniac, after drinking the blood of the child, said that he would never again want food or nourishment, that the blood had given him life everlast ing. He had not, when last heard from, partaken of a mouthful of food since the murder. The case is a remarkable one, and the statement he has made is one of the most singular productions we have ever read.

markable one, and the statement he has made is one of the most singular productions we have ever read.

"I, son of God, formerly Schastan Hunter, wish to say a few words to the world. I believe I was the father of five children; one of them died, another was strangled by its mother. She was crazy; that was the cause of the death of both children. God, our Father, willed it thushis will was done, and she is free. She has procured a divorce from me. I believe this to be the cause of the death of the third child. I killed it, it is true, but I was not the cause of her death, and therefore do not feel my self gulty of the crime. I believed to have seen the devil in her (the child). I had made a covenant with God, the Father, to catch the devil if I should have an opportunity. I now believe her mother is dead, and I have seen her mother's devil in her. After she was divorced from me, she wanted to marry me again. I had sworn by God, our Father, never to live with her again. I did not wish to change my good spirit for a bad one, and, therefore, and not evish to break my word. I still have two children; they betway to the male sex, and, therefore, sons of God. The three day are dead were of the female sex, and were daughters of their mother. It came into my mind, God, the Father, gave it to me, that He was once married, and His wife secured a divorce from Him because He did not obey her. His wife's name was Devil. Man says Adam and Eve were in the paradise, and I swear that he who follows me will get there. Man says there was a certain apple tree in paradise, to eat of the fruit thereof God, the Father, had forbidden his children. God, the Father, died of grief and sorrow. He was an industrious man and a good gardener. His divorced wife left him and went to another land, and left Adam and Eve with Him. After the Father died the Devil returned to paradise and desired her children to obey her. She took an apple from the forbidden tree and gave it to Eve to act. She took it and date it; then she gave one to Adam, but Ada

On the 14th of October last, a fellow was

arrested for the commission of a burglary at No. 155 Carlton-ave. He gave the name of John Ryan, and, after an examination before a magistrate, was committed to an examination before a magistrate, was committed to await the action of the Grand Jury, who found an indetment against him for burglary in the second degree. Soon after, he and Roger Costello, another notorious thief, broke out of fall and made their escape. Sheriff Campbell made the utmost possible efforts for the recapture of the escaped convicts, but without success. Three weeks since, a burglar, who gave the name of James Jones was arrested in New-York and locked up in the Tombs under an indictment for burglary in the third degree. From the description of the man, Sheriff Campbell suspected that Jones and Ryan were one and the same, and he went over and had a look at him, and identified him. The Sheriff commanicated this fact to District Attorney Morris, who issued a bench warrant for his autor on the indictment for burglary in the second degree. The Sheriff took the warrant to District Attorney Garvin, who put on the back of it the following indersement: "I see no reason why the within named James Ryan should not be surrendered on the and James Ryan should not be surrendered on the ithin warrant to the Sheriff of Kings County." The Sherif took the warrant to the jail, and was about to set possion of the prisoner, when an order came from Judget with the properties of the prisoner, when an order came from Judget with the properties of the prisoner. session of the prisoner, when an order came from Judge Dowling preventing the keeper of the Jai from giving him up. On the following Saturday District-Attorney Morris went over and had a long talk with District-Attorney Gar-vin about the matter, showing the benefit to the public of having the prisoner tried on the charge of burglary in the second degree in Kings County, and the result was that Garvin promised to deliver the prisoner up on the followsecond degree in kings County, and the result was that Garvin promised to deliver the prisoner up on the following Tuesday, but on Monday Sheriff Campbell got a note from Mr. Garvin, stating that he could not deliver the prisoner up on Tuesday, as some parties wanted to lave him kept for a few days longer. On Monday afternoon Judge Troy and District Attorney Mortis went over to Mr. Garvin's office, and urged him to allow the prisoner to be tried in Brooklyn. Judge Garvin promised to deliver him up in a few days. Nothing further was beard from him up in a few days. Nothing further was beard from him up in a few days. vin promised to deliver him up in a few days. Nothing further was heard from him until the following Saturday, when District-Attorney Morris again called, when Judge Garvin again premised to deliver the prisoner up on the following Monday. Nothing further was heard from Judge Garvin, until the news of Ryan's escape from a deputy sheriff appeared in the papers, and now, instead of having served a term in State Prison, as he would have been doing had the New-York authorities done what was clearly their duty in the matter, he is at large to commit other depredations.

[Brooklyn Eagle.]

MAIL ROBBERS-AN EXCITING CAPTURE. On Friday night quite an exciting renconter be-

tween officers of the law and mail robbers occurred at odin, Ill., situated at the intersection of the Ohio and Mississippi and Illinois Central Railroads. At this point the mail matter from this city for the South is transferred from the Ohio and Mississippi trains by means of trucks to the depot of the Central Road. This transferred from the Ohio and Mississippi trains by means of trucks to the depot of the Central Road. This transferred made in the night-time, and always when there is crowding and confusion in the vicinity, has afforded a good opportunity for the operations of mail robbers, and it has not been overlooked. For a considerable time until boxes have been missed between St. Louis and Cairo, and the matter has caused a good deal of trouble to the accust of the Post-Office Department. The modus operandl of the robbers appears to have been to gain possession of one or more of the mail boxes of a night, carry them to the woods not very far from the station, possess themselves of the contents, and then burn the boxes. In this latter step they were not always quite successful, so far as a complete destruction was concerned, and the suspicion of the officers of the department became thoroughly aroused and directed in the right direction. Thursday night has quite an extensive robbery was perpetrated, and three mail boxes from St. Louis were stolen. The following morning, the remains of two of the boxes were found in the timber, and the detectives made arrangements to keep a strict watch on the following night, and capture the robbers it possible. Between Il and Il o'clock on Friday night, at the mails were placed upon the trucks in the usual manner for transportation, three men appeared, acting apparently as if employed in connection with the depot, and were about possessing themselves of a letter-box each, when the detectives suddenly appeared upon the ground, and a lively collision occurred. Two of the feliows ran off, and the third knocked down Officer Holt and attempted to make good his escape, but the detective quickly regained his feet and pursued, fir Odin, Ill., situated at the intersection of the Ohio and

SING SING STATE PRISON-EIGHTEEN CONVICTS ESCAPE IN ONE YEAR.

Chorus—"Not for Joe," etc.

"Lord, give me strength to fight And battle every foe;
If tempted to forsake my God,
To ery out—'Not for Joe."

Some years since, a wild goose was shot in washington Territory, and a few grains of wheat were taken from his craw. Being very large and full, they were preserved and planted. The yield was found to be so great as to lead to its propagation, until this variety, which is known in the Territory as the "Goose Wheat," has become a standard one in that section of the country. Samples of this wheat were recently sent to the Agricultural Department at Washington. Upon examining the samples at the museum, of which there are some 2,000 varieties, the same wheat was found, being one of the samples sent from the Paris Exposition, and grown in Cuenea, in Spain.

Barney Williams, says The Philadelphia Press, was quite overcome last Friday evening, while he was singing "Pat Mailoy" in the "Irish Emigrant," at the Walnut-st. Theater. The late James T. Brady was a warm personal friend of Mr. Williams, and wrote the second verse of the song for him many years ago. Mr. Williams had attended the funeral of the genial-hearted lawyer on Thursday, in this city, and when he came to sing the old verse on Friday evening, he thought of the The agitation regarding the very mysterious letter written to James Logan by a Sing Sing convict.